

some champions in the 19th Congressional District of Texas. I proudly congratulate the Sudan Nettes girls basketball team of Sudan High School in Sudan, Texas, for winning the Class 1A, Division I State championship in 2009.

The Nettes finished the 2008–2009 season with 35 wins and only five losses. The championship squad includes seniors Whitney Robertson, Skylar Sowder, Amy Tiller, and Brittany Williams; juniors Lacey Logan and CeCe Williams; sophomores Emylee Gonzales, Desiree King, Chelsea Locke, and Mariah Steinbock; and freshmen Baylee Black and Danielle Logan. Led by head coach Jason Cooper, the coaching staff includes assistant coaches Lisa Logan and Mark Scisson.

Following a frustrating loss in this last year's State finals, the Nettes demonstrated their hard work and determination during the off-season. In this year's final, their focus on teamwork paid off in a 71–38 victory over the Roscoe Plowgirls, the third largest margin of victory in Class 1A history. With this win, Sudan earns its fourth State title and its first since 1994.

I applaud the Nettes' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best basketball team in Class 1A. The Sudan Nettes continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the court.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Muleshoe Mules high school football team for defeating Kirbyville on the way to winning the Class 2A, Division I State football championship in 2008.

Establishing a tradition of success, the Mules have made their State playoffs 9 out of the last 10 years under Head Coach David Woods. In 2008, the Mules demonstrated their talent and determination by ending the football season with a perfect 15–0 record. This is the first State football championship for Muleshoe.

Quarterback Wes Wood passed for 4,532 yards for this season, with 230 of those yards in this year's championship game.

In another exceptional championship performance, Lane Wood ran for 160 yards and two touchdowns. The Mules scored four consecutive touchdowns in the second half to achieve a final score of 48–26.

I applaud the Mules' hard work and resilience through the 2008–2009 season. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 2A football team in the State of Texas and an inspiration to all of us. The Muleshoe Mules continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the field.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING DEWEY SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dewey Smith, a young man who tragically lost his life on Tuesday, May 5, this past Tuesday, in the course of his duties at the Aquarius Undersea Research Station. He will be greatly missed by his friends, his family, and his colleagues.

Dewey's life was tied to the sea from his childhood growing up on the Gulf Coast in Panama City, Florida. As a young man, he served his country as a United States Navy hospital corpsman. For 5 years, he cared for the health and well-being of his fellow sailors. After leaving the Navy and attending college, he found himself at home back in the water, training at Florida State University's underwater crime scene investigation program focusing on scientific and surface supply diving. Eventually, his path led him to NOAA's Undersea Research Center, Aquarius.

Aquarius combined the elements of Dewey's passion for science and the sea. Located 3½ miles off the coast of Key Largo, Florida, the underwater laboratory is dedicated to scientific research and training missions. It is the only permanent underwater laboratory in the world, and its facilities are used in partnership with NASA, the Navy, and countless scientists around the world to train astronauts, divers, and develop new technology. Since it began operation in 1993 at its current location, Aquarius and its team have safely conducted more than 90 missions with no significant prior accidents.

The contribution to ocean science by Dewey Smith and his fellow aquanauts is immeasurable. The Aquarius Reef Base supports a long-term coral reef monitoring platform, an ocean observation platform, and surface-based research.

Since its inception, the team at Aquarius has employed a coral reef and fish monitoring assessment program to track the devastating impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.

Aquanauts such as Dewey Smith have also successfully reached out to the world beyond the scientific community, successfully educating school children, environmental activists, and government agencies on the changes occurring in the world's oceans. Employing state-of-the-art communication technology, the aquanauts correspond with students and the public while underwater on long-term missions. Dewey's response to school children's questions reveal not only his expertise and eloquence, but his sincere desire to share that knowledge gained at Aquarius in the hopes of saving the marine ecosystem he worked with.

The work done at Aquarius by brave aquanauts such as Dewey Smith improves the lives of many Americans, from astronauts, whose health and safety are ensured through technology

developed underwater, to fishermen, whose livelihoods depend on understanding the effects of climate change on the world's marine ecosystems.

Mr. Speaker, this Monday, quite rightfully, our Nation will gaze in wonder and admiration at the astronauts who will lift off yet again in the space shuttle. As courageous and important as the work those astronauts do, I believe that the work done by the aquanauts at Aquarius is no less courageous and no less essential to our understanding of our world and the well-being of civilization.

Dewey Smith, along with the other Aquarius aquanauts, risked and committed his life daily not only for his love of the sea but for the cause of research, education, and conservation, which benefits us all.

In a few short minutes on Tuesday afternoon, a dedicated aquanaut was suddenly lost in the course of an otherwise standard mission. Let us not risk losing the work, however, that he was so passionate about. I stand today not only to mourn the death of a beloved friend, son, brother, and colleague, but to urge that this mission continue.

Looking forward, I hope that Dewey's life will continue to inspire the important work of preserving the world's oceans. I offer my sincere condolence to Dewey Smith's family, to the entire Aquarius team, and ask that this House honor him as a man who died serving his country in pursuit of scientific progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence in honor of this courageous government employee and researcher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING JOHN A. GARRETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate, pay tribute, and honor a great American on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

John A. Garrett turns 100 years old this Sunday, May 10th. The Governor of Alabama has declared this Sunday John A. Garrett Day in the State, and the mayor of Montgomery has done the same in our State's capital city.

I want to join in sharing my best wishes with those loved ones and friends who will be sharing in this, celebrating the milestone on Sunday in Snowdon, Alabama.

John A. Garrett, born on May 10, 1909, was the fourth from the oldest of 10 children. He is the last surviving sibling in his family.

John A. as he is affectionately called by his friends, attended Auburn University, which was then called the Alabama Polytech Institute. He graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1936. There, he met the love of his life, Ms. Katherine Stowers, whom he married that same year. They have two daughters, Mary John, and Kitty Walter.

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John A. is one of those type individuals that when you meet him, you can't help but like him. He has received numerous awards and acclamations throughout his career. John A. was quite a multitasker during his career, which spanned many decades, in various lines of work, whether it was during the Second World War as he served in the Corps of Civil Engineers or as the State director of the Farmers Home Administration, where he served both during President Nixon's and President Ford's administrations.

John A. was also a gentleman farmer and served at the Alabama Farm Bureau. He also did work in construction. And at the age of 76, he founded the Alabama Rural Water Administration, which he served for 17 years. But of all the things John A. is known for, probably his great storytelling ranks among the top.

So, Mr. Speaker, on this momentous occasion of reaching a century mark, which very few people get the opportunity to celebrate, I wish this great American all the best, many more years to come, and happiness and God's blessing to him and his family.

MOTHER'S DAY 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the upcoming celebration of Mother's Day this weekend, Sunday, May 10. Mother's Day is a joyous occasion. And one of the reasons that Mother's Day is just such a celebration is that we all recognize the important role that mothers play not only in the lives of their biological children, but in the life of the entire community. It has been astutely observed that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

However, for too many women in our world, the journey to motherhood, pregnancy and childbirth is a death sentence rather than a reason for celebration. For every woman who dies, another 20 survive but must suffer from the illnesses or injuries incurred during pregnancy or childbirth. Maternal mortality is the highest health inequity on the planet Earth, with more than 99 percent of deaths in pregnancy and childbirth occurring in the developing world. And we don't really have to look that far to find those inequities right here in our own hemisphere. Haiti has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere.

Women in the world's least developed countries are 300 times more likely to die in childbirth or from pregnancy-related complications than women in the developed world. And this is a tragedy that is compounded by the fact that these maternal deaths are preventable. When a woman dies after giving birth, the mortality rate for the now motherless newborns can be as high as 90 percent in poor countries.

Fortunately, there are known interventions, proven interventions that can be implemented to reduce maternal mortality. However, we need to invest more in the programs to fund these interventions. By one estimate, the U.S. would need to increase its investment in global maternal health efforts up to \$1.3 billion a year in order to help achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing global maternal mortality by three-quarters by 2015. And out of eight Millennium Development Goals—eight—the goal to reduce maternal deaths has had the least progress being made on it.

Additional funds would help increase access to prenatal care, neonatal care and postpartum periods. It would provide up to 4 million health professionals who are needed in developing countries. Six of the seven countries with the highest levels of maternal mortality have less than one doctor for every 10,000 people. The severe shortage of health care workers and the poor quality of care must be addressed to achieve reductions in maternal mortality.

This week, President Obama unveiled a new global health initiative that will call for increased U.S. investment in global health programs. And I am thrilled that one of the identified goals for this new initiative is to reduce the mortality of mothers and children under 5 to save millions of lives. As a mother, I know that being a mother is one of the greatest joys and blessings ever enjoyed on this planet.

Again, I wish all of you, all my colleagues and their constituents, a happy Mother's Day. And I would hope that we would spend a moment thinking about all the mothers-to-be, a half-million women a year in the world, who never, ever, ever enjoy motherhood because they die in pregnancy needlessly.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, over the last weeks, I have spent hundreds of hours helping craft a moderate, centrist bill on health care.

Our country should work on lowering the costs of health insurance. And while a nationalized government HMO could prompt tax increases, inflation and a decline in quality, we could instead enact policies that lower the costs of health insurance for Americans.

When we reform health care, we should follow key principles. First, reforms should defend your relationship with your doctor. Insurance companies already interfere with much of our care, and a government HMO would do worse. Second, reforms should reward the development of better treatments and cures. Americans support treating diseases like diabetes, but they are passionate about a cure. And finally, reforms should be sustainable because so many senior citizens depend on them. The worst thing we could do is enact a program that we cannot afford.

In considering health care reforms, Americans look to Canada and Britain as models. Canadians have a different view. While over 60 percent of Americans are actually satisfied with their health care plan, only 55 percent of Canadians are happy. Over 90 percent of Americans facing breast cancer are treated in less than 3 weeks, while only 70 percent of Canadians get such quick treatment. Meanwhile, thousands of Canadians seek treatment in U.S. hospitals. The average Briton waits even longer, 62 days. Britain has fewer oncologists than any other Western European country. It is no wonder Britain ranks 17 out of 17 industrialized countries in surviving lung cancer.

The most dramatic differences come in the field of cancer, where Britain's most respected medical journal, *The Lancet*, published results on a review of European and American survival rates. In short, *The Lancet* reported, American men have a 66 percent chance of surviving cancer, European men 47 percent, American women 63 percent, European women 56. In short, you are more likely to live if you are treated in America.

Newborns, most at risk, need the care of a neonatal specialist. In the United States, we have six neonatologists per 10,000 live births. In Canada, they have fewer than four, in Britain fewer than three. In this country, we have more than three neonatal intensive care beds per 10,000, just 2.6 in Canada, less than one in Britain. It is no wonder babies in Britain are 17 percent more likely to die compared to just 13 percent a decade ago.

The starkest difference appears when you are sickest. In Britain, government hospitals maintain nine intensive care beds per 100,000 people. In America, we have three times that number, at 31 per 100,000. In sum, Britain has less than two doctors per 1,000 people, ranking it next to Mexico, South Korea and Turkey.

Stories of poor care under government-only systems are common in Britain. Last February, the *Daily Mail* reported on the case of Ms. Dorothy Simpson, age 61, who had an irregular heartbeat. Officials of the National Health Service denied her care, telling her that she was "too old."

The *Guardian* reports in June that one in eight NHS hospital patients have waited more than 1 year for treatment. In Congress, we have proposals